

Big Bend

Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park
Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River



September 18 - October 1, 2016

Sunday, September 18

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Getting to Know the Agaves” Big Bend is home to a variety of species in the Agave family. Found throughout the park, they have played a major role in the lives of both humans and animals. Join Ranger J. Jurado for a closer look at some of these unique plants. Meet at the Panther Junction Visitor Center. Easy walk on the Panther Path. 30 minutes.

Monday, September 19

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don't let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Tuesday, September 20

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Blurred Horizons” As one looks across the vistas of Big Bend, both physical horizons and cultural horizons meet. Are the views we see today the same as they were 1000 years ago, or 10,000 years ago? Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of Big Bend's changing climates, changing inhabitants, and a window into the vistas of the past. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Friday, September 23

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Building the Big Bend” Geology doesn't have to be a quagmire of cryptic terms. Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn some basic concepts and the events that have shaped the Big Bend. If you're curious about how the Chisos Basin formed or the history behind some of its conspicuous formations, be sure to go along. Meet at the Chisos Basin trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and good walking shoes. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 1 hour.

Saturday, September 24 – National Public Lands Day

8:30 AM Volunteer Service Project – “Revegetation and Clean-up at Rio Grande Village”

Interested in helping to make your National Park a better place? You can help Big Bend National Park staff to revegetate an area as part of an ongoing project in the Rio Grande Village area. A second project will consist of cleaning food storage boxes in the campground. Tools, work shirts, gloves, and water will be provided. Volunteers and park staff will meet in the Rio Grande Village Campground Amphitheater parking lot. Some walking required; flexible time commitment; projects should end at approximately 12 pm.

Sunday, September 25

9:30 AM Guided Walk - “History Beneath Your Feet” Big Bend is rich with history, including the very trails we hike. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn more about what the Civilian Conservation Corps built and how we maintain these hiking trails using similar tools and construction methods. Meet at the Lost Mine trailhead. Bring water, a hat, and wear good hiking shoes. 1.5 miles. 1 hour.

Monday, September 26

9:30 AM Guided Walk – “Islands in the Sky” It is hard to stand in the Chisos Basin and not have a heightened sense of one's surroundings. The forested environment supports a variety of plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park. Join Ranger B. Frohbieter for a discussion of the “sky island” ecology of the Chisos Mountains. Meet at the Chisos Basin Trailhead. Wheelchair accessible. 1/3 mile. 45 minutes.

Friday, September 30

9:30 AM Program – “Tame the Wilderness” Would you know what to do if you got lost while hiking or were bitten by a snake and were miles from help? Join Ranger J. Fenstermacher to learn basic outdoor skills which will help conserve our environment and help you feel more confident in the out-of-doors. Meet in the Panther Junction Community Room (adjacent to the Visitor Center) for this indoor, “beat the heat” program. 1 hour.

Saturday, October 1

9:30 AM Program – “The Desert: It Wants to Kill You” Big Bend can be a dangerous place to visit, but don't let that scare you from exploring the park and having fun. Join Ranger A. Marini to learn about the dangers of the desert and what you can do to stay safe and keep the park wild. Meet at the patio outside the Chisos Mountains Lodge. Wheelchair accessible. 1 hour.

Not able to attend a program? Consider these alternatives:

The 22-mile-long Ross Maxwell Scenic Drive offers access to eight different trails, several scenic vistas, many paved pullouts with exhibits that highlight park geology and cultural history, and culminates at the Castolon Historic District. Take a day and go explore!

Enjoy the breath-taking beauty of Big Bend National Park in cool air conditioned comfort with our 22-minute Park Orientation film. Available daily on request at the Panther Junction Visitor Center.

Explore beyond the park and learn more about Big Bend history. The Terlingua Ghost Town offers several restaurants and stores, as well as a self-guiding tour of the old quicksilver mining district and historic cemetery.